

Using Vocaroo to develop speaking skills

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Topic: Sports

Level: SfL L1/ SQA Intermediate 2/CEFR B2

Time: 60 minutes

Introduction

In this lesson, students will learn how to use the Vocaroo website to record and listen to themselves. They will learn how to send Vocaroo links to their teacher and themselves and will develop as independent learners through self-correction.

Aims

- to introduce the Vocaroo website so students can record and listen to themselves speaking and improve their pronunciation.
- to develop students' presentation speaking skills based on the benefits and drawbacks of the Olympic games.
- to promote the use of the ESOL Nexus website for further self-access study.

Setup and resources

- The lesson should take place in an IT room, with interactive whiteboard (IWB).
- Learners need headsets with microphones.
- The Vocaroo website needs to be accessible to learners, ie not blocked.
- 1 copy of Worksheet 1 per learner
- Set up the video: 'How to use Vocaroo' <http://www.viddler.com/v/801185d1>

Procedure

Warmer **Word race (about 15 mins)**

- Working in groups, students list as many sports as they can in 10 minutes.
- Monitor, awarding 1 point per correct answer. Deduct half a point if spelling is wrong and encourage students to peer teach correct spelling.
- Check pronunciation and elicit ways that students can improve their pronunciation.
- Introduce the idea that students can improve their pronunciation significantly by recording and listening to themselves so they become more aware of how they speak.

Task 1 **How to use Vocaroo (about 5 mins)**

- Tell students they can use Vocaroo, an online recording tool, to record and listen to themselves.
- Students watch a short video called 'How to use Vocaroo.'



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Task 2 Pronunciation activity (about 25 mins)

- Hand out Worksheet 1
- Model a word, e.g. 'basketball'. Elicit number of syllables (3), and which syllable is the strongest. Mark the stress above the word like this:


 basketball

- Students complete the worksheet, peer check, then use Vocaroo to record themselves saying the target words.
- When students have listened to themselves and are happy with the result, they then email the Vocaroo file to you.
- When you have received the files, open one of them (choose a strong student) and play it to the class. Whole class peer checks the pronunciation and word stress. Allow time for disagreement and discussion if necessary.
- Then play the file again for whole class choral drilling.

Task 3 Planning a talk - ideas (about 20 mins)

- Students work in pairs, listing 3 benefits and 3 drawbacks of the Olympic Games.
- They then record themselves individually talking about the benefits and drawbacks of the Olympic Games. (Differentiation: encourage confident students to do this **without** their notes).
- The students mail the Vocaroo file to themselves this time. They then listen to themselves and self-correct. Remind them that they can do it again as often as they want until they are happy with the result.

Task 4 Planning a talk - preparation (about 20 mins)

- Write this statement on the whiteboard: 'Nowadays, sports personalities are paid far too much'. Students work in pairs listing 3 arguments for and 3 against this statement.
- Monitor, feeding in useful language when appropriate.

Extension activity / Homework

- Tell students to go to:
<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/build-your-speaking-skills/build-your-speaking-skills-sports>
 and try the speaking activities based on sport. Email the finished result to the teacher for correction/evaluation.

Reflection (5 mins)

- Students log out, turn away from their computers and discuss what they have learned this session and what they need to do next to improve their speaking.

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Answers – Worksheet 1

				
olympic triathlon committee athletics	penalty stadium photograph marathon	event	paralympic competition	ceremony


photographer